

# Foundation Focus

## *The Krishnamurti Foundation of America*



photo credit: Asit Chandmal

“Understanding is not to be gained eventually, in the distant end. That which is not understood continues, and that which is understood ceases to be. Understanding is not accumulative; there is no experiencer who understands. What is incomplete remains as memory, giving continuance to identity, to the ‘me’ and the ‘mine’. That which is understood and completed ceases to be, as it does not leave traces, memory. Understanding can exist only where there is freedom, not where there is bondage, not when the mind is crowded with memory. The end, the goal makes for and strengthens memory, and memory or accumulated experience does not bring about understanding. Accumulation creates a self-enclosing centre, separative, exclusive, and what is enclosed is never free, and so the experiencer can never understand. The experiencer is ever experiencing, and so the experiencer is ever incomplete. He can never understand, for understanding lies in freedom.

How can there be surety, certainty, in freedom? That which is free, the immeasurable, is beyond all comparison; it is beyond and above all opposites. He who is uncertain craves for certainty, but is not all existence uncertain, insecure? Death, disease, old age is upon us, which creates impermanency; yet we seek certainty in the impermanent. In death, in decay, in the transient we seek surety. How blind we are!

‘But we must surely live in this world. Who will give us our daily bread?’

In seeking the real, bread will be supplied; but if we seek only bread, then even that will be destroyed. Bread is not the ultimate value; when we make it into the ultimate, there is disaster, there is murder, there is starvation.

Through the transient seek the eternal. There is no path to it, for it is the ever-present.”

– J. Krishnamurti, *The World Within*, pp. 192-193

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# Executive Director's Note

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Dear Friends,

Each year I share an update with friends of the foundation, with the intention of collaborating and collecting feedback regarding the current work of the KFA and plans for the future. I think it is important for all those involved with the activities of the foundation to regularly reflect on the essence of our work and to reassess if our strategies are still effectively serving its vision and mission.

We are the caretakers of a unique set of teachings, which in my understanding have come to us at a most critical time to help humanity move away from its disastrous course of self-destruction, to unlock the human potential of freedom and transformation, and to help it realize its interconnectedness with all. In my understanding, the origin of the teachings lies beyond the genius of the person Krishnamurti and is rooted in deep universal order.

Considering the state of the world and its trajectory, and considering ourselves as the caretakers of these essential teachings, what is the right thing to do? We will of course continue the immediate – the school, the books, the archives, the retreat, etc., but is that where the bulk of our energy should be directed? I would like to leave this question open for exploration, not only for those directly involved with the foundation, but also for everyone who feels the importance of these teachings.

Krishnamurti was adamant in his discussions with the trustees that the foundation should not be merely a publishing house; that he wanted the people in the organization to live with the questions he has put forth in his teachings. In one of his discussions about the centers and schools he founded, he stated his intention clearly: "These places should become centers of light, oases in the midst of confusion, renew themselves all the

time like fresh water in a river and last a thousand years."

This year we are doing a lot of work in the Archives organizing the translated books – with over 70 book titles, some in 25 languages with several editions. One can imagine the task at hand. We are also preparing for the digitization of 500 hours of original film material, some dating back to the early thirties. Some of the digitization can be done at our archives in Ojai, and some will be outsourced to specialists.

We are strengthening our educational publications. The *Think on These Things Syllabus* has just been published, which is our strategy to bring the questioning that is stimulated by the teachings into high schools and universities. We are receiving requests for this syllabus from all over the world. Simultaneously, we are preparing two other educational publications: a teacher education manual with excerpts specifically for educational settings and a two-volume book set called *Unconditioning Through Education*, which contains the discussions about the founding of the Oak Grove School and the Educational Center.

This is just a glimpse of the upcoming work within the Archives and Publications. We hope this newsletter also provides you with a window into the activities of the Oak Grove School and other areas of the foundation that have created opportunities in which the teachings may come to life.

Thank you for your care and support in keeping this work alive and available to our world during this important time for humanity.

Sincerely,  
Jaap Sluijter  
Executive Director

# a tribute to evelyne blau

by long-time friend and colleague, Michael Mendizza



The year was 1975 or perhaps 76. Driving my bright orange VW bug from Long Beach I was surprised to find a video crew setting up in the Oak Grove. Krishnamurti had a reputation of not wanting to be photographed.

The morning light was dappling the grass as I, in my late 20's, like so many others, looked for a spot close to 'the

speaker.' A dignified woman, hair in a bun, wearing a white blouse and dark blue skirt welcomed us, all two thousand plus. Then he stepped onto the stage, sat in a folding wooden chair, paused, taking in the entire scene, and began to speak. "This is not an entertainment....," and he was off. Later, as the crowd thinned, I approached the woman in blue. We exchanged names and customary phone

Foundation of America for more than 40 years.

It was six months after our first meeting that we met at her home and began exploring a number of documentary themes:

- An introduction to Krishnamurti, which emerged five years later as *The Challenge of Change*;
- A deeply personal view of his life and so-called teachings, narrated in Krishnamurti's own voice along with biographer Mary Lutyens and others, *With a Silent Mind*;
- This was followed by a six-hour, twelve-part thematic series for education and public broadcast, *Beyond Myth and Tradition*;
- All the while collecting over one hundred in-depth interviews with those closest to 'the speaker,' collectively known as *The First Generation* and her three books plus a monolithic exhibit, *The Mind of Krishnamurti* that traces Krishnamurti's life and the world events he influenced.



numbers, and have been close friends and creative colleagues ever since. Her name: Evelyne Blau.

Raised in New York City, educated in a Steiner Waldorf school, a painter and dancer, Evelyne became the mother of three wildly different children. She is the author of several books and produced numerous documentaries, several educational programs and a museum quality exhibit. This and Evelyne's passion for the importance of reaching new audiences charted her course as a trustee of the Krishnamurti

All of these historically significant creations began by Evelyne saying, "Michael, next time we meet, I want to share an idea," and she did, ending with, "What do you think?"

And behind all these works are Evelyne's decades of dedicated service in endless meetings both as the Chair of the KFA Board of Trustees, a member of the Oak Grove School Board, and a cherished friend to all the foundations around the world. In all these years I have never met a woman I admire and respect more.

*The Mind of Krishnamurti* exhibit is on permanent display in the Pepper Tree Events Pavilion

# The Oak Grove

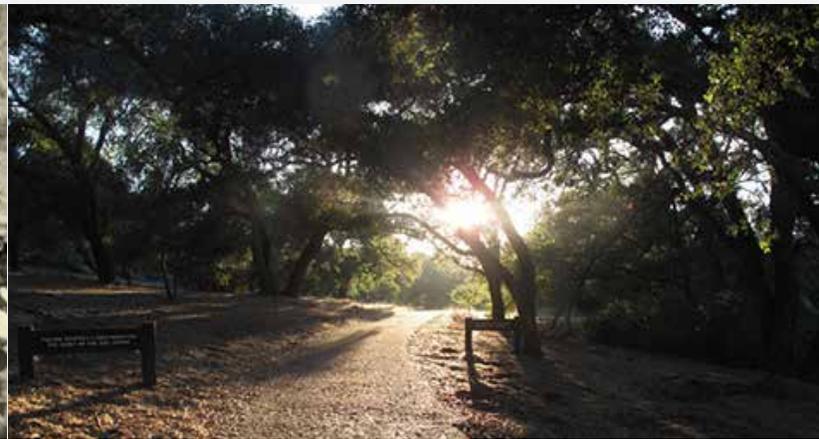
by Michael Inaba, Arborist

Over the past few months I've over-thought about this message. There is no way to briefly communicate the breadth of this topic, and no way to anticipate reader perspective nor questions that might arise. It is my hope that the KFA community will benefit from this update; at least insofar as this keeps the dialogue moving forward.

Background: Beginning in 2008, my team began planning to preserve The Oak Grove. With the support of the KFA, I worked with Ventura County Fire Department leaders to develop a management model that reduced cost, work, and environmental impact, while creating an opportunity for teaching, learning and growth. According to the

that we made in 2008-2010 brought opportunities and challenges. Future management of The Grove should consider that fewer trees in the near future may be both healthier and more stable, and (due to natural forces) probably inevitable. That we rise to this stewardship goes without question, but how we get there will make a significant difference in outcome and community perception.

This past summer we anxiously watched the Ojai valley endure record heat 116° F (46.7° C) combined with the worst drought in well over 500 years. Pines, eucalyptus, and even some of our native oaks were lost to drought



Office of Pre-Fire Planning, this collaboration provided new insights into wild-land ecology and strategies to limit the complex and damaging effects of fire in the wild-land/urban interface. We proactively removed some (but not all) beetle infested trees, stemming the epidemic loss of trees, while preserving some of the snags and downed logs as habitat. We thinned stands of Laurel sumac, purple sage, and sagebrush, preserving wildlife corridors and habitat, increasing nutrient cycling and habitat diversity, and improving manageability in case of fire. All of this helps to protect The Grove, not just the oak trees, because these trees are just the human scale components of a highly diverse system.

**Current conditions:** The Grove remains a special place for generations of people from across the globe. The unique history of teaching, of questioning, and decades of reflection, make this a special place. Concern for the care of The Grove is not new, but the challenges facing The Grove and KFA management are relatively new. Never before have we faced a drought of this severity. The recession, at least according to some, is over; but its influence on management and budgets, on how we evaluate costs and risks, may be here to stay. Progress

and resulting pest attack. Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency January 17 last year, recognizing that we must respond quickly to ensure critical systems endure this drought. Locally, Lake Casitas dipped below 50% capacity in October, and wells keep pushing deeper into the aquifer to extract water. Recent rains help ease the impact on the landscape, and they reduce the perception of drought conditions, but the drought is not over. As we enter our fourth drought year, we expect ongoing landscape scale changes including further loss of oak trees. Increased risk of wildfire, combined with short-staffed first responders, limits our options. As before, fire remains the most significant threat to The Grove. Seasonally limiting use of The Grove can reduce this risk, particularly during summer heat spells and Santa Ana wind conditions.

**The next five years:** Ventura County Fire has renewed interest in monitoring and second phase work. But due to the drought, re-growth and recovery may take another year or more before the land is ready for that work. During the coming years, and depending primarily on rainfall and groundwater (helped by the Land Conservancy's Besant Meadow storm water retention/reclamation

project), reduced tree cover is possible or even likely. While on a cycle that can span decades to centuries, this waxing and waning rhythm is no different than moon driven tides. Spot irrigation for younger trees, and even well-timed supplemental moisture charging for older trees can help to reduce tree losses at the cost of prolonged competition between trees for limited light and soil resources. While rainfall is desperately needed, big storms can topple older and damaged trees. As we work with these natural cycles of growth and decline in The Grove, we will continue to work to preserve tree cover and to improve woodland resilience. Based on our current model of minimal, but timely, intervention in support of natural cycles, in the context of The Grove as utilized natural space, I will continue seasonal monitoring in order to provide timely recommendations.

I hope that this helps to keep the KFA community informed and involved in the care of The Grove. While some may find dying or dead trees unattractive or even alarming, they are an important part of oak woodland ecology. Their presence in The Grove should remind

visitors that this is primarily a natural space, complete with natural risks to personal safety and pets. The Grove is a small representation of the surrounding woodlands, and the resilience of the oak trees has been encouraging. While monitoring and minimal intervention can create a more usable, safe and attractive place for quiet reflection and small gatherings, everyone who visits The Grove (and everyone who aims to protect it) can contribute to this effort. Please keep an eye open for anything unexpected or dangerous, such as partially failed trees or vandalism. We might install some basic interpretive signs this year to provide visitors with a more direct connection with the process of preserving this unique place.

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If you have any questions, or you'd like to volunteer in this or other sustainability efforts, contact us either by emailing [info@kfa.org](mailto:info@kfa.org) or calling (805) 646-2726. Thank you.

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## Focus on Sustainability

by Julien Griffault, Pepper Tree Retreat Manager

*"Nature is part of our life. We grew out of the seed, the earth, and we are part of all that. But we are rapidly losing the sense that we are animals like the others. Can you have a feeling for that tree...see the beauty of it, listen to the sound it makes...One must be aware of all this and have the sense of communion with nature... look at it, feel that you are part of all that, part of all living things. If you hurt nature you are hurting yourself."*

– J. Krishnamurti, *Letters to the Schools, Vol. II*

Krishnamurti put great care in establishing the schools and educational centers in beautiful locations across the globe where children and adults alike could be immersed in nature's beauty. An essential part of our mission at the KFA as caretakers of the teachings is not only to preserve our beautiful grounds, but also to re-establish a respectful co-operation with the land that so generously sustains us. This intention is present in small and large projects throughout the foundation.

The Pepper Tree Retreat has seen many changes this year, starting with a new ozone laundry system

eliminating the need for detergents and chemicals, while reducing both electric and water consumption. A grey water connection supplies regular irrigation to areas close to the main house without the need for added water.

Water efficient fixtures are being installed wherever possible across the East End campus, and we hope to have all buildings powered by solar by the end of 2016.

At the Oak Grove School, children learn organic gardening and enjoy the fruits of their labor in delicious, vegetarian meals prepared using zero-waste practices, including composting. Solar panels can be found at the Organic Garden and Besant House Boarding Facility, and education regarding electricity use reduction is a school-wide initiative.

Also, in keeping with our commitment to a respectful relationship with nature, this Foundation Focus is printed on 100% recycled paper. These are just a few of the many sustainability initiatives that we are excited to share with you.

# 2015 Outreach Programs

## Touring the States

by Amanda Lezra

Since 2013, we have travelled throughout the East Coast twice, reaching and connecting with people in New York, Maine, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, among other places. We have participated in profoundly engaging discussions held in all sorts of venues, ranging from Unitarian Churches, mountain lodges, spiritual centers, private homes, universities, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

During these trips we are reminded of the high level of interest people have in exploring questions and topics, regardless of their familiarity with Krishnamurti's work. Throughout our travels we meet new friends and are instilled with a sense of excitement and appreciation for the wonderful connections, new questions and shared ideas that emerge.

This spring we will be traveling again, facilitating a presentation titled "The World Within," to explore different aspects of human consciousness, such as desire, hate, emptiness, and beauty. The driving question: "Is it possible for the content of our consciousness to be dissolved?"

Additionally, we will be facilitating the *Think on These Things* program in a community college in upstate New York, as well as at a university in Washington, D.C.

We are always welcoming invitations from those who are interested in hosting a program. We have a

wide array of topics and materials, which delve into various concentrated areas within Krishnamurti's work (meditation, education, thought and time, etc). These presentations are suitable for people of all different ages and backgrounds. If you would like to invite us to facilitate a program near you, please contact [outreach@kfa.org](mailto:outreach@kfa.org). We look forward to meeting you!

## An Invitation: May Gathering 2015

by Cory Fisher

Every year in the height of spring on the 11-acre property of the Krishnamurti Educational Center in Ojai, we hold our annual May Gathering. This gathering is inspired by the talks that were held in Ojai during the spring for several decades of Krishnamurti's life. The KFA works with a particular theme every year to create a cohesive thread, a focusing of our efforts, our outreach, and the types of projects and programs that occur throughout the year. The annual May Gathering is a culmination of this theme. The various talks, presentations and dialogues are facilitated by a broad variety of educators, thinkers, scientists and others who share a deep interest in Krishnamurti's work and its relationship to their own lives and work.

This annual gathering is our largest event, and despite the size of the group, it has a very friendly, intimate feel. It is a special occasion for so many of us that find joy in coming together to explore, inquire, and learn in a space of shared sincerity, intensity and interest.



This year our working theme is “The World Within”. It should prove to be quite an engaging year for the May Gathering, since this topic goes right to the heart of one of the central components of Krishnamurti’s teachings—the inquiry into the truth of the divisive nature of the human mind, its impact on relationship, and its relationship to society and the world. Many of you may have attended the gathering in the past, and

we hope to see you here again. If you have not had the chance to join us for this event, we encourage you to consider attending. This year, 2015, the gathering will be held the first weekend of May (May 2nd and 3rd). There is no cost to attend the gathering, but lunch is available for purchase both days. We look forward to welcoming you.

## meet the development team

The Krishnamurti Foundation of America is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. As such, development (fundraising) is an essential focus, necessary to sustain the organization’s mission. 2014 has been a wonderful year in the life of the foundation in terms of programming, publications, school enrollment, outreach, and donor support. To meet the needs of this growth, our Development Department has adopted a two-director approach, one person dedicated to fund development focused on Oak Grove School and the other focused on all the other programs of the foundation.

**The Director of Development of the KFA** is Melissa Navarro ([melissa@kfa.org](mailto:melissa@kfa.org)). Melissa is responsible for raising funds for the general foundation programs including the Krishnamurti Educational Center and Library, Archives, Publications, Education and Outreach. You may choose to donate to the KFA General Fund or leave a legacy to support these programs.

**The Director of Development for the Oak Grove School** is Jodi Grass ([giving@oakgroveschool.org](mailto:giving@oakgroveschool.org)). Jodi is responsible for raising funds to support all operations of Oak Grove School including Capital Improvements, Endowment, and Financial Aid. You may choose to donate to the OGS General Fund or leave a legacy to support the school.

You may also choose to make a split 50/50 donation to KFA/OGS. Your gift in any amount will help us to continue to make Krishnamurti’s teachings available and tangibly alive in a world in need of deep and abiding inquiry.

**The 2013-2014 Annual Reports are now available to view online.**

Please take a moment to read the reports for an overview of the financial information for the last fiscal year.

Krishnamurti Foundation of America 2013-2014 Annual Report | [www.kfa.org/annualreport](http://www.kfa.org/annualreport)

Oak Grove School 2013-2014 Annual Report | [www.oakgroveschool.org/annualreport](http://www.oakgroveschool.org/annualreport)



# Events Calendar

## 2015

### Annual Gathering ■

We invite you to our Annual Gathering, on May 2nd and 3rd. Friends both local and from around the world come to listen to speakers, participate in discussions and dialogues, attend workshops, and simply relax with friends old and new. The offerings are free and open to the public, taking place throughout the KEC campus.

#### Parallel Programming

Several talks and workshops occur at the same time, offering playful choices, as well as events more scholarly in nature.

#### Logistics and Times

The program takes place on Saturday and Sunday, with lunch available for purchase both days at the KEC campus. No charge to attend, no reservation necessary.

### Theme Weekends ■

Theme Weekends are for people eager to inquire into fundamental questions in an atmosphere of togetherness and openness. These events are suitable for those already acquainted with the teachings as well as those new to them. The playing of Krishnamurti video and/or audio recordings will be followed by open dialogue, which has been found to be helpful in deepening one's understanding of day-to-day issues. The Theme Weekends start on Friday evening and end on Sunday afternoon.

### Introduction to Krishnamurti ■

This weekend program is intended for a range

## February / March / April

#### ■ Theme Weekend: The Challenge of Sorrow

January 30 - February 1, Friday - Sunday (2 days)

Program Fee: \$165 / Room Fee: \$165

#### ■ Yoga and Inquiry Retreat

February 18 - 22, Wednesday - Sunday (4 days)

Program Fee: \$400 / Room Fee: \$345

#### ■ Oak Grove School Event - India Night

February 20, Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Free Event

#### ■ Theme Weekend: Is It Possible to Live in Peace?

March 13 - 15, Friday - Sunday (2 days)

Program Fee: \$165 / Room Fee: \$165

#### ■ Oak Grove School Event - High School Showcase

March 22, Friday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Free Event

#### ■ Study Intensive and Retreat: Death, Renewal and the Creative Mind

April 12 - 19, Sunday - Sunday (7 days)

Program Fee: \$750 / Room Fee: \$575

#### ■ Oak Grove School Event - Earth Day

April 18, Saturday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Free Event

All program fees include lunch and dinner at the Pepper Tree Retreat, room fees include breakfast.

#### Event registration:

[www.kfa.org](http://www.kfa.org) or call (805) 646-4773

Mon - Fri, 10am - 1pm and 2-6pm

### Study-Intensive Retreats ■

These unique 7-day programs, offered three times per year (January, April and August) are designed to provide an opportunity for a deeply immersive study of the life-changing teachings of J. Krishnamurti, within a nurturing atmosphere of encouragement, affection and support. During these programs, participants enter into explorative, intensive and sensitive inquiries multiple times each day, and view videos of Krishnamurti's talks and dialogues.

### Explorations into Freedom Intensives ■

This 7-day intensive, offered twice each year, is a new approach to working with Krishnamurti's teaching that emphasizes the transformational potential of direct seeing and listening. Through shared interactive dialogue, participants are encouraged to go beyond pre-conceived ideas in order to explore the potential of setting into motion dynamic, fresh perceptions, an 'aliveness',

## May / June / July

#### ■ Annual Gathering: The World Within

May 2 - 3, Saturday and Sunday, (2 days)

Free Event

of participants, particularly those who are either new to Krishnamurti's teachings or who have never before participated in a dialogue. We will listen to audio or video recordings of Krishnamurti's talks, as well as share in readings and engage in dialogue to explore what arises.

## Oak Grove School Events ■

**India Night** - High school seniors present their experiences from their signature trip to India.

**High School Showcase** - The event features music performances, as well as painting, photographs, installations, videos, and ceramics.

**Earth Day** - Working with three additional non-profit organizations, Oak Grove School hosts Ojai's annual Earth Day celebration.

**Open House** - View student work, enjoy student performances, find out more about our progressive college-preparatory high school, boarding program, junior high, elementary and early childhood programs.

**More information:** [www.oakgroveschool.org](http://www.oakgroveschool.org)

## Recurring Events at KEC

### Weekly Dialogue

Every Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 PM

This free weekly dialogue event consists of a brief introductory presentation of Krishnamurti material – textual, audio or video – followed by dialogue exploring the questions raised.

### Monthly Video / Dialogue

#### Looking, Listening, and Shared Inquiry

4th Saturday of every month, 6:00-10:00 PM

This free program starts with a video of Krishnamurti, then seeks to explore the topic of the video via the medium of dialogue.

### Monthly Parent Dialogues

2nd Wednesday of the month (Sept. - May),  
10:00-11:30 AM

In these free monthly dialogues, parents are invited to join in watching a video, or listening to a dialogue, then engaging in discussions around education, parenting, life, and other essential themes as they become relevant.

**Exact dates online:** [www.kfa.org/recurring](http://www.kfa.org/recurring)

## ■ Oak Grove School Event - Graduation

June 3, Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Free Event

## ■ Explorations Into Freedom Intensive: Re-Discovering the Timeless Unburdened Mind

June 21 - 28, Sunday - Sunday (7 days)

Program Fee: \$750 / Room Fee: \$575

## ■ Teacher Education Program: Re-envisioning Education, and the Craft of Teaching and Learning

July 19 - 26, Sunday - Sunday (7 days)

Program Fee: \$550 / Room Fee: \$495

## August / September / October

### ■ Yoga and Inquiry Weekend Retreat

August 8 - 9, Saturday & Sunday (2 days)

Program Fee: \$145 / Room Fee: \$165, includes Friday night

### ■ Study Intensive and Retreat: Death, Renewal and the Creative Mind

August 23 - 30, Sunday - Sunday (7 days)

Program Fee: \$750 / Room Fee: \$575

### ■ Introduction to Krishnamurti

September 25 - 27, Friday - Sunday (2 days)

Program Fee: \$165 / Room Fee: \$165

## November / December

### ■ Oak Grove School Event - Open House

November 7, Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Free Event

### ■ Explorations Into Freedom Intensive: Freedom from the Known

November 8 - 15, Sunday - Sunday (7 days)

Program Fee: \$750 / Room Fee: \$575

### ■ Theme Weekend

December 4 - 6, Friday - Sunday (2 days)

Program Fee: \$165 / Room Fee: \$165

that can flush out previously unexamined resistances, fears and contradictions. This work will help to realize the possibility of sensing the energy of love that is beyond the conditioned mind.

## Yoga and Inquiry Retreats ■

Participants explore the connection between mind, body and life, through yoga and dialogue. This is an opportunity to examine Krishnamurti's work through a refreshed lens as one engages the body and brings the full self into inquiry.

## Teacher Education Program ■

Starting with the questions that we grapple with in our daily lives as educators, this seven-day program, offered each July, builds on the insights participants come to from their own deep looking and shared inquiry during the program. We shift from seeking answers to finding key questions that transform the way we see (and respond to) our educational challenges. By uncovering the underlying values of teaching and learning, we re-envision school, classroom and other learning environments. In re-orienting the act of teaching to one of learning, we awaken the craft of teaching.

## Communication Calendar

Monthly Email - news, events, quotes, publications and more.  
Email [info@kfa.org](mailto:info@kfa.org) to sign up to receive these messages.

Spring Appeal - March 2015  
Foundation Focus - August 2015  
Annual Appeal - September 2015  
Bulletin - November 2015

# OAK GROVE SCHOOL



Meredy Benson Rice  
Head of School

**Notes from the Head of School:** Twice each semester, I have the opportunity to read every student's narrative report, each of which includes reflections from all of their teachers. Spanning from Kindergarten to 12th grade, these narratives provide a view of the school as

a whole, enabling me to answer the question **"Are we continuing to fulfill the mission and intent of Oak Grove School?"** Are our students learning in the broadest possible sense, both about the world of knowledge and the world beyond knowledge? Are they learning about themselves, their assumptions, their conditioning, and their relationship to each other, to things, to ideas, and to nature? Are they growing in sensitivity and learning to deal with the inevitable conflicts that arise between us? Are they *flowering in goodness*?

How might we answer these questions? We do not give grades at Oak Grove School until students reach high school. Instead, we account for specific academic skills and then write detailed narrative reports. Even when teachers begin to give letter grades in high school, they accompany these grades with narratives, allowing teachers to speak to the heart of what is happening with a student in a holistic and comprehensive way. In addition to the written reports, teachers meet with students and parents mid-way through each semester for conferences and, beginning as early as 4th grade, these conferences are student-led. In the last semester of high school (12th grade), students also develop a gateway presentation where they deeply reflect on all aspects of their learning over time and present it to family, friends, teachers, and community members. The fulfillment of Oak Grove's mission is multi-faceted and manifests uniquely for each student, evolving over time and with the influence of the entire community.

Bringing Krishnamurti's work to children and adolescents is a nuanced process. The teachings are embedded in the very land on which he chose to build the school, in how we care for that land, in how we foster the climate of inquiry, and in the daily interactions of children, parents, teachers, and the larger community. How we listen to each other, how we reflect on the assumptions we bring to conversations, and how we support, model, and assist with conflict are all examples of learning in the broadest possible sense. The teachings are also in the joyful smile of a three-year-old sharing their mud-pie with a friend, in the glow of accomplishment as an early reader shares a story with her class, in the helping hand of an older student assisting a younger one on a wilderness trail, and in the intense curiosity on the faces of chemistry students observing a lab experiment.

The students are, indeed, *flowering in goodness*, and we are grateful to be part of a community that sustains an environment where this can take place.



Our seniors and their chaperons just returned from their signature trip to India. They had an amazing time working with fellow students in our sister schools, engaging in dialogues, deepening their understanding of Krishnamurti's teachings, and exploring the environment. We look forward to hearing of their adventures when they present at India Night - Friday, February 20th. All are invited.

## Awakening Natural Relationship Through Camping and Exploration

*"If one loses contact with nature, one loses relationship with other human beings."*

– J. Krishnamurti

Closeness with nature begins early at Oak Grove School. The wooded campus is bordered by acres of oak groves and wetlands, and the curriculum and daily schedule provide for large blocks of outdoor activity. On a given day, preschool children explore fields in search of seasonal insects and flowers, elementary classes tend herbs and vegetables, junior high students sketch in a rose garden, and high school sophomores spend biology class in a grove observing the web of life through energy exchange. A familiarity and comfort in nature is emphasized across the school, and nowhere



is this better manifested than in the camping program. Through a graduated sequence of trips, students build their confidence, self-sufficiency, awareness, and appreciation of beauty. Most importantly, they develop self-knowledge through relationship with nature and each other...

Read more at [www.oakgroveschool.org/blog](http://www.oakgroveschool.org/blog)

## Inspired to Create Change

*How one Oak Grove high school student spent her summer*

by Piper Stump

The small city of Surkhet, Nepal nests tucked away in a valley surrounded by verdurous mountains looming all around. Just a turn off the busy streets filled with colorful market stands and stray dogs, lays Kopila Valley. Behind the gates one will find the smiles of 50 beautiful children possibly playing with dogs, helping a friend, or maybe reading. Kopila Valley Children's Home is where I spent a short month of my summer volunteering. Kopila Valley was started and is run by a brilliant young woman named Maggie Doyne. During her gap year she visited Nepal for a part of her travels. After



seeing the substandard living and working conditions Maggie was inspired to create change. What was once supposed to be a short visit to Nepal transpired into an on-going lifestyle for Maggie. She called her parents asking them to transfer over her babysitting money to begin her adventure. After many years of hardship and love Maggie today has created the Kopila Valley School currently educating about 300 children, and has adopted 50 children who live with her at the Kopila Valley Children's Home. After I met Maggie, I knew I had to be a part of this....

Read more at [www.oakgroveschool.org/student](http://www.oakgroveschool.org/student)

# Teacher Education Program: July 19 - 26

## The Right Kind of Education: Learning in Relationship

by Mary Kelley, Oak Grove School 5th Grade Teacher and past program participant

*“Education, in the true sense, is the understanding of oneself, for it is within each one of us that the whole of existence is gathered.”*

– J. Krishnamurti, *Education and the Significance of Life*

It was in reading many books of Krishnamurti’s talks and dialogues that I was first awakened to what education means: learning about oneself in relation to the world. And I am eternally indebted to the KFA and Oak Grove School for providing me with invaluable opportunities to experience this significance of education in two Teacher Education Programs that I was able to attend. The first of these programs was in 2007 while I was still in college. Called “The Teacher’s Academy,” it was ably led by Paul Herder, a long-time staff-member at Oak Grove School.

The second came several years later, after I had been teaching in a public-school system in Connecticut for some time. Entitled “Re-envisioning Education, and the Craft of Teaching and Learning” (2013), it was facilitated by Gopal Krishnamurti, a current co-principal of Brockwood Park School.

What set these programs apart from any other professional development I had ever experienced

the beauty of nature effortlessly led me in my inquiry. With the marvelous purple mountains of the Topa Topas around us and the leaves of the noble oak-trees shaking in the sunshine, it was like being on a very

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special retreat. Thirdly, living in relationship to others who are equally open to inquiring deeply into their conditioning, and questioning the rigid assumptions about education, facilitated natural insights like blossoms within. After each of these programs, I remember coming away feeling deeply moved by a sense of beauty and social purpose. I knew that I could actually live my life this way: learning and teaching in community with others like me.



photo by Liz Otterbein

was that they were, above all, genuinely fun and invigorating. I feel that this is critical because it provides for our being authentically engaged in order for learning to occur. I experienced first-hand how

These programs actually led to my eventually achieving the object of my most cherished dream: to be a teacher at Oak Grove School. Now, teaching the fifth-grade class here, I find myself to be an integral part of this wonderful community of learners. Unlike my previous involvement in the public-school system, OGS encourages our practice of the “art of living and learning,” in which the “art of engagement” allows for genuine fun in learning, and the “art of aesthetics” cultivates

our natural blossoming in the environment, while the “art of care and relationship” brings teachers, students, and parents all alike together to explore self-understanding in safety and honesty.



## A Note from Mark Lee, KFA Trustee

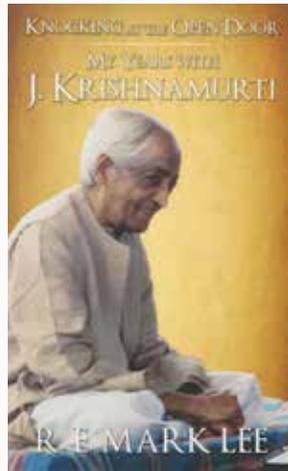
This New Year is the 46th anniversary of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America (KFA founded in 1969) and the 40th anniversary of the Oak Grove School (OGS founded in 1975). Noting this gives us an opportunity to pause and look at where we are, having spent decades of time, energy, money, and the creative attention of countless people to fulfill the intention of the founder J. Krishnamurti: To effect humanity and help create a more peaceful and intelligent world through individual psychological change.

Krishnamurti said, "...listening is the guru (teacher)." In essence, this is what the KFA and OGS do; they provide opportunities for children and adults to deeply listen to themselves and others, including Krishnamurti, and inquire into and explore the subtleties of life. Right listening is itself revelatory. Yet most of us hear but rarely listen. Deep listening, that is without memory, interpretation, value judgments, or associations can lead to deep change in understanding and insight.

The KFA and OGS have succeeded in providing the opportunities for psychological change. Whether it has happened will likely never be known because

psychological change is so subtle and not something that can be measured. The change that Krishnamurti talked about is not about learning something or gaining wisdom. It is about a real change in the molecular structure of understanding and insight.

In my book, *Knocking at the Open Door: My Years with J. Krishnamurti*, published last month by Hay House in India, I tell of the time Krishnamurti taught students in India how to listen, and subsequently how to look. Many of his public talks would begin with him talking about



how important it is to listen, and how to listen. The subtlety of real listening lies in the loss of the center, the ego, even if for only a short time, and its consequent clear perception. From *The Book of Life* for January 1st:

"Have you ever sat very silently, not with your attention fixed on anything, not making an effort to concentrate, but with the mind very quiet, really still? Then you hear everything, don't you? You hear the far off noises as well as those that are nearer and those that are very close by, the immediate sounds—

which means really that you are listening to everything. Your mind is not confined to one narrow little channel. If you can listen in this way, listen with ease, without strain, you will find an extraordinary change taking place within you, a change that comes without your volition, without your asking; and in that change there is great beauty and depth of insight."

## The Krishnamurti Foundation Bookstore

The primary mission of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America is to make Krishnamurti's teachings available as widely as possible. The International Krishnamurti Publications Team is at the forefront of this work, working with agents to bring books and DVD's to new audiences each year. Our extensive selection of Krishnamurti titles are available through our online bookstore ([www.krishnamurtibookstore.com](http://www.krishnamurtibookstore.com)), as well as our physical bookstore inside the Krishnamurti Library. Here at the foundation in Ojai our librarian, Michael Krohnen, has in-depth knowledge of the available titles, as well as the history of the place from the numerous years spent here, including his time as Krishnamurti's cook.

Thanks to the Publications Team, we have several new titles available now, including two new books, *The World Within*, and *Discover the Immeasurable*, as well as a newly revised and expanded edition of *The Ending of Time*. As a part of a collaborative effort with the Krishnamurti Foundation Trust in England we are working to provide more videos than ever of Krishnamurti's talks and dialogues on DVD by this summer, which will make over 100 different DVDs available for purchase, many for the first time.

We are especially grateful for purchases made at the KFA bookstore, which create double the income for the foundation through both royalties and profits, and support the continuation of this work.

# YOUNG ADULT OUTREACH



A Note from the Program Director:  
Amanda Lezra

As I begin to write this article, it dawns on me that the Think on These Things program is entering its fourth year since its inception in 2011. Upon reflection, I am immensely excited about the growth the program has experienced and my personal journey with it.

Throughout these years I have facilitated countless discussions at numerous high schools and universities throughout California and across the country, finding a deep interest in fundamental questions common among students. We have written, published, and distributed a syllabus that contains the core questions and intent of the program, creating the opportunity for these types of dialogues to happen in classrooms anywhere. In facilitating weekly discussions at Oak Grove School this past year, I have used the questions and activities contained in the syllabus as a departing point. Feedback provided by students at the end of the year demonstrated that they found it deeply engaging and thought provoking.

## Student Intern Program 2015

by Claire Wade-Hak, Student Intern Program Coordinator

On studying his teachings, Krishnamurti said: "They [students] should study the teaching thoroughly, soak in it deeply as you would do if you were to study medicine or Buddhism or any other subject. Studying means to go deeply into the subtleties of the words used and their contents and seeing the truths in them in relation to daily life. They should be able to discuss the teaching with specialists in any branch of knowledge, as scholars do. While they are studying, these people should have a spirit of cooperation."

We began the Student Intern Program three years ago with the intention of providing a space for young adults who are interested in Krishnamurti's teachings and their implications in our daily life. During this immersive year-long program, student interns live at the KEC, work 20 hours per week in exchange for board and lodging, as well as a stipend. Student interns participate in numerous dialogue and inquiry programs, and have frequent opportunities to interact with scholars visiting the Pepper Tree Retreat & Pine Cottage. One of the most exciting aspects of this program, in my opinion, is that it is not an escape from daily life, rather it provides the interns an opportunity to study and actively explore the work of Krishnamurti in their own lives with a community ready to support them in this endeavor.

Since the program began, we have had student interns from a variety of backgrounds participate, with many different reasons for joining. The uniting factor for all is an interest in looking deeper into Krishnamurti's work

and themselves. This makes for a very engaged and lively group who are as excited as we are to create this program together. The foundation provides a basic structure for this inquiry, but the heart of the program is generated by whatever engagement is brought by those who are in it, so it is a constantly evolving and living process, one which touches all of us involved. If you are interested in building this with us as well, visit [www.kfa.org/intern-program](http://www.kfa.org/intern-program) for more information.



## Reflecting on the Program

by Sage Stoneman

2013-2014 Student Intern

One day, while I was in my senior year of high school, I found myself in the kitchen of the Pine Cottage at the Krishnamurti Foundation, in dialogue with Jaap and a small group of

other inquirers. We were talking about fear. This led us into talking about coping mechanisms, and response patterns, and beliefs, and thought, and love, and life, and death, and empathy, and... well, you get the point.

Until then, my experience exploring this infinite web of inquiry had been limited to conversations with my father or my few close friends with whom I shared a similar perspective. It was a wholly different experience to walk into a room of people that I didn't know and explore new ways of asking the same old questions.

That first experience at the KFA introduced me to the quality of connection that I had been longing for, but hadn't really been able to find in my school or social life.

One afternoon, as I was leaving the school after one of our sessions, I overheard a group of students animatedly explore a question we had raised in our discussion. The question was: "What would it mean to love without motive?" As I observed the students huddled together, questioning each other, exploring, I felt overcome by the unequivocal relevance these discussions hold for all of us—the questions are neither academic nor abstract. They touch upon our shared human longing to connect with one another, to explore and understand what is really going on for us in our daily lives. Sharing our experiences with one another, in an authentic, safe space, has the potential to transform us, and thus the world we live in, in fundamental ways.

We will continue to conduct the Think on These Things program in Oak Grove School throughout the next year, and will additionally begin to facilitate regular discussions in the Global Studies department at the University of California at Santa Barbara throughout the upcoming semester. We are currently looking for educators who would be interested in implementing this program in their classrooms. If you are interested in acquiring a copy of the syllabus and would like support in using it, we are available to offer training sessions and if possible, will happily travel to you. Please contact [amanda@kfa.org](mailto:amanda@kfa.org).

**The *Think on These Things* Syllabus is currently available at [www.krishnamurtibookstore.com](http://www.krishnamurtibookstore.com)**

## Awakening Compassion Throughout Childhood

by Andy Gilman

Inspired by the *Think on These Things* project, teachers at Oak Grove School inquired into the nature of compassion in their students and themselves, and talked about how this virtue is awakened and fostered at different age groups. While the interaction between teachers and students on this subject varies depending on the age of the students, there are coherent threads running all the way from the youngest classes to the oldest:

- To foster compassion in students, teachers must sincerely inquire into their own conditioning and prejudices, to be as clear as possible of their biases and triggers, even to question their discomfort with conflict;
- Creating opportunities for students to be in another person's shoes, be that through play, literature, history, theater, travel, or sincere listening inspires empathy in children... to imagine the experience of another can

set the stage for relationship and belonging, and move the student away from a self-centered orientation to one of care and thoughtful intention;

- Inquiry is a fundamental way to open the door to imagination, empathy, and compassion. The focus can be on the encouragement of humane response (investigating a range of actions), or waking the feeling of relation to those who are suffering, or who have suffered, injustice or unmerciful circumstances. In all of these occasions, the questioning of what is, but most importantly our interaction with what is, provides the gateway to care and the stirring of responsibility.

What do these opportunities for awakening and nurturing compassion look like in different classrooms? We begin in early childhood...

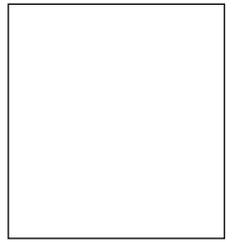
**To read more, visit [www.oakgroveschool.org/blog](http://www.oakgroveschool.org/blog)**

I spoke with Jaap about his plans to create an intern program and I knew that I had found a worthy alternative to going to college.

Now, it's been about a year since I left the KFA, and I can honestly say that I couldn't have made a better decision about how to spend my first year out of high school. In a society that puts such a strong emphasis on being someone and doing something, it can be very easy to overlook the actual experience of simply being and doing. We are expected to decide how we want to present ourselves to the world, but we're never really offered the

opportunity to actually get to know ourselves.

The Student Intern Program at the KFA allowed me the time and space to get to know myself. And not only was I allowed the space, but I was also provided with structure. The program offered me the tools and the support that I needed to explore myself without the imposition of belief systems or the restriction of my unique self-expression. My experience at the KFA played an essential role not only in my growth as an adult but also in my journey through self-awareness as consciousness itself.



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# Foundation Focus

*The Krishnamurti Foundation of America*



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